

FISCAL NOTE

SB 245 - HB 1841

February 28, 2003

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests to be administered during the last three weeks of the school term, on a date or dates determined by the local board of education. Currently, the TCAP achievement tests (3-8) are given during a three week period beginning the last week of March through the first two weeks of April to ensure that individual scores are back by May 31 so they may be forwarded to the LEAs.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$550,000 One-Time
Exceeds \$50,000 Recurring**

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures* - Exceeds \$100,000

Estimate assumes:

- The turn around time for scoring the tests would not be moved back from current requirements but would remain the same.
- The bill addresses only the TCAP achievement tests.
- The Department of Education estimates that by pushing back the testing window to the last three weeks of school, the addition of two scanners and additional temporary staff positions would be required in order to meet the May 31 deadline of having the tests scored.
- If TCAP tests were administered within the last three-week period of school, LEAs would likely need to hire temporary central office staff to assist with delivery, editing, and the return of test materials.
- A later testing window may also require the LEAs to extend contracts for key staff at each school, such as a principal or guidance counselor until verification that all test materials have been returned to the central office.
- The return of test results after the last day of school may also require additional LEA staff time during the summer to see that student results are properly stored or forwarded.
- Delays in test reporting to parents, collecting summary data for the upcoming school year, the evaluation of the school's annual yearly progress and the identification of on-notice or on-probation schools may be delayed.

Details of the estimate are shown below:

State Expenditures - Department of Education:

Two scanners @ \$225,000 each - \$550,000
Temporary staff positions - Exceeds \$50,000

Local Govt. Expenditures - LEAs:

Temporary central office staff to assist with delivery/editing/returning
of test materials
School staff to assist in returning and/or forwarding of test materials
(Metro-Davidson County estimates a cost of \$48,000 to handle
requirements of the bill.)

It is estimated that the combined increase in local government
costs would exceed \$100,000.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of
general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or
counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and
correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director